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HISTORIC LANDMARKS & PRESERVATION DISTRICTS COMMISSION

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FOREWORD

The last decade of Louisville's economic growth and development has been marked by a flurry of activity in the rehabilitation of older buildings. Substantial renovation has taken place both downtown and in the older neighborhoods of the city. Louisville has been in the forefront of this national trend which has seen the renovation of historic buildings gain an increasing share of the construction market.

Recycled buildings create new and exciting spaces while retaining architectural character and detail not replicable today. Such renovations offer unique identities and prestige to the inhabitants and give a sense of historical continuity, human scale and character to a city.

The favorable economics of renovation, the Federal tax treatments and the special ambience of historic properties are all positive factors for the continued popularity of the redevelopment of historic real estate.

Louisville has one of the richest and most diverse collections of Victorian and early 20th century architecture to survive in the United States. At the height of the Gilded Age, Louisville was the eighteenth largest city in the country with a widely diverse commercial and industrial base. The city's architectural stock reflected this economic prosperity.

The City of Louisville formalized its commitment to historic preservation with the establishment of the Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission in 1973. This city agency has been a national leader of local commissions with an active program of local designations and listings in the National Register of Historic Places. Over 12,000 structures are now listed in the National Register either in historic districts or as individual landmarks. This quantity of historic buildings offers a wide range of opportunities for developers and investors.

HARVEY I. SLOANE
MAYOR